

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CEREAL HARVEST FORECAST, 1950-51.

The following harvest estimates are based on reports received from 2,358 farmers representing 36% of the area under crop.

WHEAT. The estimated yield is 30,800,000 bushels, compared with 28,350,860 in 1949-50, and represents an average yield of 16.74 bushels from 1,840,000 acres. The mean average yield over the last ten years has been approximately 12 bushels.

BARLEY. Based on the replies from farmers, a yield of 16,300,000 bushels is estimated from 745,000 acres or an average yield of 21.88 bushels per acre. In past years it has been noticed that the farmers have underestimated their barley yields. Last year their estimate was for 11,850,000 bushels and the actual yield was 12,725,240. If there has been similar underestimating this season, it is possible that the crop may be $17\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels or more. The previous record crop was 15,363,461 bushels in 1947-48, with an average yield of 27.32 bushels. The mean average yield for the past ten seasons has been a little over 18 bushels.

OATS. The estimated yield is 3,500,000 bushels from 295,000 acres or an average yield of 12.28 bushels per acre. For 1949-50, the total yield was approximately the same - 3,463,997 bushels - with an average per acre of 13.25. The ten year average yield has been 10 bushels.

RAINFALL. The average rainfall over the agricultural areas for April, June, July, September and November was below the mean of the previous 45 years, for August it was equal to the mean, and for May and October it was above the mean. Although the total to the end of September was only 8.55 inches compared with the mean of 9.94, fortunately 1.85 inches were recorded for October compared with the mean of 1.33 and November was near normal with 0.89 inches compared with 1.00. The latter rains, associated with good weather generally, assured better than average harvests for wheat, barley and oats.

During the period that wheat areas were being extended, it was usual for the average wheat yield in bushels per acre to be less than the April-November agricultural areas rainfall in inches, but with the decreasing wheat areas it is noted that the average wheat yields exceed the inches of rain. For the last 45 years, the average wheat yield has been 10.86 bushels and the April-November rainfall 12.27 inches, but for this last season the wheat yield is estimated at 16.74 bushels while the rainfall has been only 11.29 inches.

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20th December, 1950.